global change processes. India is not involved in the programme.

(c) Under the United Nations guidelines, imaging over any part of the world is accepted under the open sky policy. Hence, no permission is needed for imaging India.

Difficulty in releasing funds under MPLADS

3506. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are finding it difficult to release funds under MPLAD Scheme due to financial crunch;

(b) if not, whether all Members of Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha have received funds under MPLAD Scheme for first quarter of the year 2001; and

(c) if not, the number of projects pending for release of funds under MPLAD Scheme as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Under Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS), each Member of Parliament is entitled to Rs. 2 crores per year. Accordingly, Budget provisions of Rs. 1580 crores for the current financial year have been provided for 790 Members of Parliament @ Rs. 2 crores per MP per annum.

(b) and (c) Under MPLADS funds are released to District Heads on receipt of Expenditure Statement, showing an unsanctioned balance less than Rs. 50 lakhs. In case of all Members of Parliament where the above criterion has been fulfilled, the next instalments of funds during first quarter of 2001 have been released.

Cost escalation and time over-run of central Projects

3507. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Standing Committee on Finance has taken seriously the matter that various projects of the Central Government which has resulted

in huge cost and time over-runs;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard, indicating various Ministries;

(c) whether any responsibility for the delay and cost escalation has been fixed;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTERY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The observations/recommendations of the Standing Committee on Finance, as given in its 16th Report, are given in statement-I (*See* below).

(c) to (e) As in March, 2001, 25 Standing Committees have been set up in different Ministries/Departments to examine the reasons for time and cost overruns and to affix responsibility therefor . A list of the Ministries/ Departments in which these have been set up is given in Statement-II (*See* below). Out of 52 proposals posed to the Standing Committees for fixation of responsibility, reports in respect of 28 projects have been finalised. The reports of the Standing Committees form part of the proposals for revised cost estimates of projects which have time and cost overruns. These are submitted alongwith the Note for the Public Investment Board (PIB) and the Note for consideration of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.

Statement-I

Excerpts from the Sixteenth Report of the Standing Committee on Finance (2000), Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation

18. The Committee note that the Project Monitoring Division (PMD) has been entrusted with the task of monitoring all the central projects costing Rs. 20 crore and above as also to examine causes of time and cost overrun for fixing responsibility. As on 31 March, 2001, 461 projects costing Rs. 20 crore and above, were on the monitor of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. They are however distress to note that the cost

of the these projects with respect to originally approved cost, has increased from Rs. 1,21,345 crore to Rs. 1,64,746 crore registering an increase of Rs. 43,401 crore (33.6%). With respect to the latest approved cost, it has escalated from Rs. 1,42,609 crore to Rs. 1,64,746 crore showing an increase of Rs. 22,137 crore (15.5%).

19. The Committee are at pain to point out that despite repeated concern expressed by the committee in their earlier reports, the position instead of improving has rather worsened further and the escalation is increasing with the passage of each year. This is despite the all claims made by the Ministry that there are independent Standing Committees working in each of the Ministries except the Railways for monitoring the projects costing Rs. 50 crore and above.

20. From the foregoing, the Committee are led to the inescapable conclusion that the monitoring and appraisal of projects is not being done vigorously by the Ministries concerned resulting in huge time and cost overruns.

21. While expressing their deep anguish, the Committee strongly recommend that the latest approved date of commissioning/completion and cost of projects should be adhered to atleast now and under no circumstances, these should be allowed to necessitate further revision. In the meantime factors leading to slippages in time schedule and cost escalation should be identified with a view to take remedial steps.

Statement-II

Standing Committees set up by Ministries

Sl. No.	Ministry/Department
1	Civil Aviation
2	Power
3	Home Affairs
4	Water Resources
5	Women and Child Development

Sl. No.	Ministry/Department
6	Health and Family Welfare
7	Telecommunications
8	Agriculture & Co-operation
9	Economic Affairs
10	Urban Affairs & Employment
11	Mines
12	Coal
13	Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Ministry of Agriculture & Cooperation
14	Heavy Industry
15	Petroleum & Natural Gas
16	Department of Scientific and Industrial Research
17	Surface Transport-Road Transport and Highways
18	Surface Transport-Shiping and Ports
19	Steel
20	Atomic Energy
21	Education
22	Animal Husbandry & Dairying
23	Fertilisers
24	Chemicals and Petro-Chemicals
25	Law and Justice

Completion of schemes under MPLADS

†3508. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any time limit has been fixed for completion of work relating

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.